

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Please amend claims 1, 3 and 6.

Please cancel claims 17 and 18 without prejudice.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A starting device for an internal combustion engine, in particular a pull-rope type starting device for a two-stroke or four-stroke motor, which comprises at least one pulley or rope drum which is rotatably held in a housing, wherein said starting device, for generating the drive torque for a motor shaft by means of a handle, in particular by means of a starter handle or pull handle, is rotatable by way of a load transfer means, in particular by way of a starter rope or pull-rope, and by way of an elastic coupling element, in particular by way of a spiral spring, is connected to an engaging element, in particular to a ratchet-type engaging element, by means of which the drive torque can be transmitted to the motor shaft,

characterised in that

the angle of rotation by which the ratchet-type engaging element is rotatable in relation to the pulley or rope drum by exerting a load on the elastic coupling element is limitable to a specifiable maximum angular value by a limit stop arranged on an ~~the~~ underside of the engaging element, which underside faces the pulley or rope drum, said limit stop guided in a guide groove recessed in the pulley or rope drum.

2. Canceled

3. (currently amended) The starting device according to claim 1, characterised in that the limit stop is shaped as a circular segment or arc-shaped segment, ~~and/or is guided in a~~ and the guide groove, in particular is formed in the manner of a section of an arc of a circle, with said guide groove being provided in the pulley or rope drum.
4. (previously presented) The starting device according to claim 3, characterised in that, for the purpose of achieving the maximum angular value, the limit stop comes to rest against a rest surface in particular at the end of the guide groove.
5. (previously presented) The starting device according to claim 4, characterised in that the rest surface is formed by the closed end of the guide groove and/or in the form of a limit stop damping device, in particular a limit stop damping device made of elastomer material, provided for damped stopping of the rotary movement.
6. (currently amended) ~~The starting device according to claim 1, characterised in that~~ A starting device for an internal combustion engine, in particular a pull-rope type starting device for a two-stroke or four-stroke motor, which comprises at least one pulley or rope drum which is rotatably held in a housing, wherein said starting device, for generating the drive torque for a motor shaft by means of a handle, in particular by means of a starter handle or pull handle, is rotatable by way of a load transfer means, in particular by way of a starter rope or pull-rope, and by way of an elastic coupling element, in particular by way of a spiral spring, is connected to an engaging element, in particular to a ratchet-type engaging element, by means of which the drive torque can be transmitted to the motor shaft,

characterised in that

the angle of rotation by which the ratchet-type engaging element is rotatable in relation to the pulley or rope drum by exerting a load on the elastic coupling element is limitable to a specifiable maximum angular value by two limit stops ~~are provided which are arranged so as to be~~

essentially diametrically opposed to each other, and/or so as to be offset by approximately 180 degrees in relation to each other, on an underside of the engaging element, which underside faces the pulley or rope drum.

7. (previously presented) The starting device according to claim 6, characterised in that each of the two limit stops is guided in a respective guide groove, and in that the guide grooves are arranged in the pulley or rope drum so as to be essentially mirror inverted, and/or so as to be offset by approximately 180 degrees in relation to each other.
8. (previously presented) The starting device according to claim 7, characterised in that, for the purpose of achieving the maximum angular value, the two limit stops come to rest against respective rest surfaces at the same time, in particular at the end of their respective guide groove.
9. (previously presented) The starting device according to claim 1, characterised in that the maximum angular value which is provided when the starting device is activated, in particular when the handle is pulled, is in the magnitude of approximately 270 degrees to approximately 280 degrees divided by the number of limit stops used, i.e. in particular in the magnitude of approximately 270 degrees to approximately 280 degrees if one limit stop is provided; or in the magnitude of approximately 135 degrees to approximately 140 degrees if two limit stops are provided.
10. (previously presented) The starting device according to claim 1, characterised in that in the case of the coupling element failing or breaking down, the engaging element is rotatable if the starting device is activated, in particular if the handle is pulled.
11. (previously presented) The starting device according to claim 4, characterised in that in the case of the coupling element failing or breaking down, the engaging element, as a result of the limit stop

resting against the rest surface, is rotatable when the starting device is activated, in particular when the handle is pulled.

12. (previously presented) The starting device according to claim 1, characterised in that the coupling element is pretensioned or comprises pretension.

13.-18. Canceled